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Editorial

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND

The eleventh annual meeting of the Classical Association of New England was held at Brown University, Providence, on April 7 and 8. The program was carried out exactly in accordance with the announcement that appeared in the April number of the *Journal*. The attendance consisted of one hundred or more members from the various parts of New England. The central number of the program, both in point of attendance and in sociability, was the dinner held in the Brown Union on Friday evening; and the Association was very fortunate in having as the speakers of the evening Dr. W. H. P. Faunce, president of Brown University, and Rev. G. Glen Atkins of Providence. After the members had enjoyed the very pleasant and successful dinner, Mr. Atkins spoke with great power and eloquence, and emphasized the importance of the work that we humanists are doing in this utilitarian age. He called attention to the streams of influence that have run through the world's work in art and literature since the period of the Renaissance, and since Petrarch held in his hands the manuscripts brought from Constantinople—Greek manuscripts that seemed to him, though he could not read them in the original, so precious. Mr. Atkins was followed by President Faunce, who called attention to the various branches of learning that are now engaging the attention of the educated world and the general public, and insisted that, however valuable other lines of educational work may be,

there always has been and always will be an important place for the classics, which are doing a work possible to no other medium of education.

When the meeting was called to order by President Peck at 10:35 A.M., Dean Otis E. Randall of Brown University, extended a most cordial welcome to the assembly. By way of illustration of the value that he himself attached to the study of the classics, he referred to his own career, and stated that though a large part of his active life had been given to the study of mathematics and the application of mathematics to science and engineering, he felt that of all the time that he had given to the study of the classics (and this included the regular work taken in the classical preparatory course in school, and the study of Latin and Greek through college) he had never regretted a single moment. Though when he started out on his engineering career he felt perhaps that others who had specialized more in this department had an advantage, he soon realized that the training received in the classics made it much easier to solve many of the problems where breadth of knowledge and vision was needed.

After this began the reading of the set papers. Dr. Phoutrides of Harvard University brought what was probably a new message to nearly all the members present, in his appreciative article on the "Hesiodic Reminiscences in the *Ascraean* of Kostas Palamas," whom a leading French critic considers the greatest of modern European poets. Dr. Phoutrides gave an idea of the message of Palamas, as given in the first part of the "Vision," and he showed that the modern poet had brought back to the lovers of Greek today many of the thoughts and inspirations of Hesiod of old, transformed to interpret the feeling and tendencies of our day. Miss Caverno in her paper on "The Messenger in Greek Tragedy," proved that the messenger in Greek poetry is not merely a kind of supernumerary, not solely the survival of the epic poet, but a personage second to none in importance in presenting to his auditors such facts as are most effective when brought to the attention of the ear rather than to the attention of the eye. Dr. Brackett of Clark College, in the next paper, combated with great success the opinion expressed by Professor Jebb that there is in the *Antigone*

of Sophocles a defect produced by the delay of Creon in his intention to rescue Antigone from the death to which he had adjudged her.

These three papers furnished the literary program for the morning, and served as a basis for such discussion as members of the association had time and desire to introduce. A question by Professor Dickerman, of Williams College, drew from Dr. Phoutrides the statement that there is today a much more favorable sentiment on the part of the Athenians toward the use of the vernacular than there was a generation ago; in fact, Dr. Phoutrides said, "no poet now in Greece would dare write aught except in the vernacular; scientists and writers still keep nearer to the ancient language."

The afternoon program consisted of three numbers. The first of these, a paper on "Religious Burlesque in Aristophanes and Elsewhere," by Professor J. W. Hewitt of Wesleyan University, was much more illuminating and general in its character than its rather modest title would seem to indicate. Professor Hewitt called to our attention the fact that not only throughout the literature of the classical period, especially the comedy, but also in religious dramatic presentations of various countries and ages, this burlesque of the divine has been common. A part of this peculiar phase of worship, he felt, was undoubtedly due to what might be called a ritual license, which was not peculiar to Greek comedy nor to Aristophanes, and a part of it was due to a burlesque of sacred beasts when they were represented on the stage by men clothed so as to simulate them.

The second paper was on "The Transvaluation of Greek and Latin," by Professor Francis G. Allinson of Brown University. He took up as examples for analysis Sargent's translation of Terence, and Storr's of *Sophocles*, and showed some of the passages in which the translations failed largely by obliterating the original atmosphere. Even Gilbert Murray, whose success, especially in his translation of Euripides, has been so great, was found to "nod" occasionally. Professor Allinson laid down three canons of translation: (1) an ideal translation must be faithful to the original; (2) the English version must be readable and vivid; (3) only a scholar can pronounce on the value of a translation.

Professor Knapp brought to the association greetings from the Classical Association of the Atlantic States. He then presented a paper on "References to Painting in Plautus and Terence." His starting-point was a well-known passage in the *Mostellaria* of Plautus. A number of other passages in Plautus were referred to, and some passages not generally understood as referring to painting were claimed by the writer to refer to this art. Only one reference to painting had been found in Terence.

The program of the afternoon closed with a touching tribute to the memory of the late Dr. William C. Collar, who became headmaster emeritus of the Roxbury Latin School after a continuous service of a half-century, during forty years of which he was headmaster.

On Saturday morning Mr. Albert S. Perkins of the Dorchester High School reported upon the results that have been gained through work done in the Dorchester High School in experiments to determine the value of vocational Latin. Readers of the *Journal* have already read, undoubtedly with great interest, the papers of Mr. Perkins giving the results previously obtained. Surely here the classical teachers can show that Latin has not only a cultural value but a utilitarian value that cannot be despised.

Professor Nelson G. McCrea of Columbia University gave us another of his admirable reports on "The Examinations in Latin of the College Examination Board," thus keeping the members in close touch with the work of that board, and giving to many teachers an accurate statement of results that are extremely valuable to them for their teaching in the next year.

The last paper of the morning was by Dr. Alfred R. Wightman of Phillips Exeter Academy, on "The Transitive Use of the Genitive Gerund and Its Parallel Construction in the Gerundive." Dr. Wightman gave the results of research that had evidently started with a paper prepared by Mr. Bernard M. Allen of the Phillips Andover Academy, which was printed in the *Journal* for March, in 1910. In that paper Mr. Allen had stated—and had given some examples in proof of his statement—that, whereas the genitive of the singular of the gerundive was used with considerable freedom, the genitive of the plural is found infrequently, and he felt that

perhaps the Romans objected to the repetition of the endings *-orum*, or *-arum* in this construction. Dr. Wightman has reinvestigated the matter and feels that the previous statement of Mr. Allen cannot be substantiated by the facts. It will now rest with the scholars to compare the two papers and to decide for themselves as to the merits of this discussion.

On Saturday afternoon there were two papers, the first of which was entitled "T. R. Cyrus," by Professor Frank C. Babbitt, of Trinity College. Only a person with a rare appreciation of Xenophon, and of the characteristics of recent political life in this country, and only a man with a keen sense of humor, could have produced so brilliant a paper. Perhaps it would be unwise to trace the analogy of the career and characteristics of Cyrus with those of a noted American citizen until after early November of the present year.

The last paper of the session was entitled "Little Journeys from Rome," and was given by Professor Karl P. Harrington of Wesleyan University. With illustrations made very largely from his own films, Professor Harrington guided us through the interesting towns and cities of ancient Italy, among the Sabine hills, the Alban hills, through portions of Latium and southern Etruria, and gave us many a glimpse of ancient tower and turret and wall, rendered more attractive by interesting reminiscences of personal experience.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Professor Harry DeForest Smith of Amherst College; vice-president, Mr. Albert S. Perkins of the Dorchester High School; secretary and treasurer, Professor George E. Howes of Williams College; members of the Executive Committee to serve for two years, Miss Irene Nye of the Connecticut College for Women, and Mr. Walter V. McDuffee of the Springfield High School.